

**Senator Henry M. Jackson's Comments to CBS Following
DCI's Appearance before the Subcommittee on National
Policy Machinery on Wednesday - 17 February 1968**

Senator Jackson: Our committee is concerned with the broad philosophical problem can a free society such as ours so organize itself as to be able to outplan, outperform a totalitarian society? Our hearing this morning was for the purpose of getting a broad briefing of this very broad challenge that we face. Mr. Dulles, as usual, gave an excellent presentation covering the long-range challenge that we face. I believe that his testimony will be most helpful in our effort to undertake in a constructive way changes in our national security policy machinery that will help this country sustain a long-term challenge from the Soviet-Sino Bloc.

Reporter: Senator, there has been some confusion about the potential of the Soviet Union and the estimates of what the Soviet Union might do. Was that clarified today?

Senator Jackson: Well I want to say that I've been listening to briefings from the Central Intelligence Agency for about eleven years and in my judgment they have always done a good job. They've made mistakes like all of us but they have been minimal. The briefing today simply presented what they have estimated pretty much in the past. They didn't

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need to make any corrections because to my knowledge no corrections were in order. Their estimates have been pretty much in keeping with their position in the past.

Reporter: Senator, would you say that there was anything controversial about the testimony given today?

Senator Jackson: I wouldn't say that it is controversial, no. I think that the presentation was of such a nature, so well presented and so logically presented, that I personally can say that I would agree with virtually everything that was said. The controversy that the public of course is familiar with does not relate to what this particular agency said. It's what interpretation other people may make of the information submitted by the Central Intelligence Agency. The CIA as an organization as I have said in my judgment have done a fine professional job. They have approached it with intellectual honesty, they have maintained a tradition in the previous administrations and in this administration in the intelligence field that I think is indispensable to the doing of our job in the legislative branch as well as the job that must be done in the executive branch.

Reporter: Senator Mundt, what was your reaction?

Senator Jackson: It goes without saying that this has been the atmosphere in which the Agency is operated. If they operate in any

different atmosphere we'd be in more trouble than we are in already.

Senator Mundt: And it is also the guide line that we have been following and expect to continue to follow in our committee which is to get all of these facts that we possibly can and on those base any recommendations which seem reasonable for perfecting or modifying or changing or making recommendations for changes in our national policy machinery.

Reporter: Do you expect there will be a necessity, Senator Jackson, for any changes to be made?

Senator Jackson: Oh yes. I definitely anticipate that we'll make changes. I might point out that the last change in the national security legislation occurred in 1947 with the exception of an amendment in 1949 so that there is a definite need for the updating of our policy making machinery. The National Security Act of 1947 was merely a codification of our World War II experience. Now we've been in a cold war for 15 years - 14 years. The question is is the machinery that was set up as a result of our experience in a hot war adequate to deal with what may well be a 25, 10, 25, or a 50 year struggle in the cold war. The problems presented are entirely different. I think the Russians are counting on a lack of staying power on the part of our country. I think they feel that we're sort of fat, rich and slap happy, and we don't have the staying power and the patience to put up with a long-term struggle.

I personally feel that we can bring about these changes in both machinery and eventually in policy that will demonstrate to the world that we are virile, hard, tough and capable of doing the job that must be ours as one of the great leaders of the free world.

Senator Mundt: And not only staying power, and that is certainly correct, but it is comparatively easy to coordinate a national effort in a cold war. It's a little more difficult to coordinate our activities in a cold war and it is tremendously important if we do not have wasted money and wasted manpower and wasted effort that there be a coordination of this cold war technique in this effort and I think our committee can make some real contributions in that area.

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Remarks:

The attached is a transcript of
Senator Jackson's remarks to the press
following the DCI's appearance before
Jackson's Subcommittee on 17 February.
I thought it might be of interest to you.

[redacted]
John S. Warner

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